

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8452

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: SIND CABINET EXPANSION

REF: (A) KARACHI 1230; (B) KARACHI 1574

SUMMARY: SIND CHIEF MINISTER JATOI RECENTLY EXPANDED HIS CABINET FROM EIGHT TO TEN MINISTERS AND ADDED ONE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR A TOTAL OF SIX. THE INCLUSION OF A "MUHAJIR" (REFUGEE) MINISTER WAS NOTEWORTHY. JATOI NAMED A RECOGNIZED EXPERT -- INCIDENTALLY A HINDU -- AS HIS ADVISOR ON AGRICULTURE. THESE MOVES APPEAR DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN JATOI'S POSITION AND BROADEN THE BASE OF RULING PARTY SUPPORT IN PREPARATION FOR MUNICIPAL AND POSSIBLY PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY

1. ON OCTOBER 24, TWO DAYS AFTER HIS CHIEF DOCTIONAL RIVAL (MUMTAZ BHUTTO) WAS ELEVATED TO THE FEDERAL CABINET, SIND CHIEF MINISTER GHULAM MUSTAFA JATOI ANNOUNCED THE EXPANSION OF HIS CABINET. JATOI, WHO HAD HINTED AT SUCH A MOVE SINCE JANUARY, WAITED UNTIL THE EVE OF THE ASSEMBLY SESSION TO MAKE IT. HE APPOINTED DUR MOHAMMED USTO, A VETERAN JACOBABAD POLITICIAN AND LANDOWNER AND FORMER SIND MINISTER UNDER MUMTAZ BHUTTO, AS MINISTER FOR POWER AND IRRIGATION. MORE NOTEWORTHY WAS THE INCLUSION OF BADI-UL HASAN ZAIDI, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A PROMINENT URDU-SPEAKING "MUHAJIR" (REFUGEE FROM INDIA) LAWYER

OF HYDERABAD, AS MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND COOPERATION. ZAIDI, A MEMBER OF THE RULING PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (PPP) SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1967, WON A HOTLY-DISPUTED BY-ELECTION TO THE ASSEMBLY LAST JUNE. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION RETURNS, THERE HAD BEEN RIOTING IN HYDERABAD AND ALLEGATIONS OF OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE IN THE POLLING (REF A), WHICH CHARGES ARE NOW BEFORE A HIGH COURT JUDGE. COMPETENT HYDERABAD OBSERVERS PRIVATELY PREDICTED LAST WEEK THAT THE JUDGE WILL UNSEAT ZAIDI. SUCH A DENOUEMENT MIGHT BE USED TO ADVANTAGE BY THE PPP -- THE "MUHAJIRS" HAVING BEEN PLACATED BY ZAIDI'S INCLUSION IN THE CABINET, THE SINDHIS WOULD BE PLEASED BY HIS EXCLUSION FROM THE ASSEMBLY. (FULL CABINET COMPOSITION AND BIODATA ON NEW MINISTERS BEING POUCHED.)

2. JATOI, HAVING NAMED FOUR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES IN JULY (REF B), APPOINTED ANOTHER LAST MONTH AND THE SIXTH ON OCTOBER 24. THE LAST-NAMED IS ONE SYED MURAD ALI SHAH OF NAWABSHAH, WHO WHO ENTERED THE ASSEMBLY AS THE VICTOR IN A 1972 BY-ELECTION TO FILL THE SEAT OF HIS LATE FATHER, A LONG-TIME PROVINCIAL LANDLORD-POLITICIAN. AS LONG RUMORED, P. K. SHAHANI, A WIDELY-RECOGNIZED AGRICULTURAL EXPERT AND MAJOR LANDOWNER FROM HYDERABAD, WAS MADE ADVISOR FOR AGRICULTURE TO THE CHIEF MINISTER. SHAHANI, A HINDU, IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY. SINCE JATOI NEITHER RETAINED THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE PORTFOLIO HIMSELF NOR ASSIGNED IT TO ANOTHER MINISTER, IT APPEARS THAT SHAHANI, UNDER JATOI'S PROTECTION, WILL BE DE FACTO SIND AGRICULTURE MINISTER.

3. THE CABINET NOW CONTAINS REPRESENTATIVES FROM EVERY DISTRICT SAVE DADU AND THARPARKAR; KARACHI CONTRIBUTES TWO MINISTERS AND THREE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES. AS WELL AS ORTHODOX SUNNIS, MOST OF THE SECTS WITHIN ISLAM ARE REPRESENTED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AHMEDIS. ALTHOUGH ONE PPP LEGISLATOR IN THREE IS NOW A MINISTER OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (16 OF 47 IN A HOUSE OF 61), JATOI CONTINUES TO HINT THAT HE MIGHT YET MAKE ANOTHER APPOINTMENT OR TWO.

4. COMMENT: JATOI HAD HELD OFF EXPANDING HIS MINISTRY TO SEE WHAT CHANGES THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD MAKE IN THE FEDERAL CABINET. THE INCLUSION OF MUMTAZ BHUTTO AND TWO OF HIS FOLLOWERS IN THE FEDERAL CABINET MADE IT IMPERATIVE THAT JATOI (WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROVAL) STRENGTHEN HIS OWN POSITION, TO WHICH END THE APPOINTMENT OF US TO AND ZAIDI WAS DIRECTED. JATOI HAS ANNOUNCED THAT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, IN WHICH THE "MUHAJIR" VOTE WILL BE DECISIVE, WILL BE HELD BY APRIL 1, 1975. THERE IS WIDESPREAD SENTIMENT HERE THAT, BARRING SETBACKS TO THE PPP, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS MIGHT ALSO BE HELD, PRESUMABLY AT A LATER DATE. THE ENLARGED SIND CABINET, CONTAINING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL SIGNIFICANT AREAS AND GROUPS, WOULD SEEM WELL-CHOSEN TO LEAD THE

RULING PARTY IN SUCH AN EFFORT. TIGER

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